

Message Text

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ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 CAB-09 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00

DOT-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 FAA-00 L-03 PA-04 PRS-01

USIA-15 SS-20 NSC-07 DRC-01 SP-03 /111 W

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R 291820Z APR 74

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8723

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

FAA BRUSSELS

FAA WASHDC

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE PARIS 10380

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRN, FR

SUBJECT: CIVAIR: CONCORDE

REF: PARIS 10156 (NOTAL)

SUMMARY; THOUGH AEROSPATIALE HAD DENIED TO US PRESS
REPORTS OF PLANS FOR SERIES OF TRANSATLANTIC
FLIGHTS BY CONCORDE IN MAY, WE UNDERSTAND THAT
PROPOSAL HAS BEEN PUT FORWARD BY AEROSPATIALE.
FRENCH AND BRITISH GOVERNMENT REPS MAY TAKE DECISION
THIS MATTER APRIL 30.

1. LE FIGARO AND INTERNATIONAL HERALD TRIBUNE
REPORT APRIL 29 UNDER TOULOUSE DATELINE THAT AERO-
SPATIALE HAS ANNOUNCED TWICE DAILY TRANSAT-
LANTIC FLIGHTS WILL BE MADE BY CONCORDE DURING A
TWO WEEK PERIOD IN MAY. THIRTY-TWO PASSENGERS
WOULD BE CARRIED ON EACH FLIGHT. AP ITEM IN HERALD
TRIBUNE REPORTS PURPOSE OF FLIGHTS IS TO DEMONSTRATE
CONCORDE'S USE IN REGULAR SCHEDULED SERVICE. LE
FIGARO, HOWEVER, REPORTS PURPOSE IS TO SPEED UP
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COMPLETION OF CONCORDE'S CERTIFICATION. LE FIGARO

ADDS THAT FLIGHTS WILL OPERATE BETWEEN CHARLES DE GAULLE AIRPORT IN PARIS AND NEW YORK OR, IF LANDING RIGHTS ARE REFUSED AT NEW YORK, MONTREAL. LEAD ITEM IN BRIEF LE FIGARO STORY IS REPORT OF FORMATION AT TOULOUSE AND BRISTOL OF COMMITTEES FOR DEFENSE OF CONCORDE, SINCE "THE COMING MONTHS WILL BE DECISIVE FOR THE COMMERCIAL FUTURE OF CONCORDE."

2. WE QUERIED AEROSPATIALE OFFICE IN PARIS AND WERE TOLD THAT NO SUCH STATEMENT HAD BEEN MADE TO PRESS. AEROSPATIALE SPOKESMAN TOLD US SOME ENDURANCE FLIGHTS WERE BEING PROGRAMMED AS PART OF CONCORDE CERTIFICATION EXERCISE BUT HE CLAIMED NOT TO KNOW WHETHER ANY OF THESE WOULD BE TRANSATLANTIC.

3. WE LEARNED FROM BRITISH EMBASSY (WHICH ASKED THAT WE PROTECT THEM AS SOURCE) THAT IDEA FOR SERIES OF TRANSATLANTIC FLIGHTS AS PRESS HAD REPORTED HAD INDEED ORIGINATED WITH AEROSPATIALE WHICH HAD DISCUSSED IT WITH BAC. FLIGHTS WOULD REQUIRE APPROVAL OF FRENCH AND BRITISH GOVERNMENTS AND THUS FAR NO DECISION HAD BEEN TAKEN. HOWEVER, JOINT POSITION OF BOTH GOVERNMENTS COULD EMERGE FROM MEETING THAT IS TO TAKE PLACE IN PARIS APRIL 30; WE WERE TOLD THAT IF THIS POSITION IS FAVORABLE, THEN NEXT STEP WOULD BE TO APPROACH APPROPRIATE US AUTHORITIES.

4. WE WERE TOLD THAT JUNE 5 FLIGHT TO BOSTON (REFTEL) WAS SEPARATE MATTER, SINCE AIRPORT AUTHORITIES AT BOSTON HAD INVITED CONCORDE FLIGHT ON THAT DATE ON OCCASION INAUGURATION NEW AIR TERMINAL.

5. OUR BRITISH EMBASSY SOURCE EXPLAINED THAT HIS QUERY TO US OF LAST WEEK (REFTEL) WAS A PROBE IN EFFORT ASCERTAIN WHETHER FRENCH MAY HAVE QUIETLY APPROACHED US ON THEIR OWN RE PROPOSED TRANSATLANTIC FLIGHTS.

IRWIN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: CIVIL AVIATION, COMMERCIAL AIRCRAFT, AIR SCHEDULES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 29 APR 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974PARIS10380
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740102-0111
From: PARIS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t1974046/aaaaaesv.tel
Line Count: 98
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EB
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: PARIS 10156 (NOTAL)
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 01 APR 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <01 APR 2002 by boyleja>; APPROVED <11 JUN 2002 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CIVAIR: CONCORDE
TAGS: ETRN, FR, UK, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005